

Filed for intro on 03/14/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 745
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Vanderbilt University Women's Basketball Team on winning the 2002 Southeastern Conference Women's Basketball Tournament Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize those outstanding teams of young men and women who display courage, diligence, and excellence in the realm of athletics; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy team is the Vanderbilt University Women's Basketball Team, who recently won the 2002 Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt defeated a tough and resilient team from Louisiana State University, 63-48, to conclude its victorious march through the SEC Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores were victorious in their three tournament contests against Auburn, Arkansas, and Louisiana State over a three-day span, earning their first Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship since 1995; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt earned this championship through their tenacious defense, explosive offense, and tremendous courage and unity in difficult games; and

HJR0745

01258685

WHEREAS, thus far in the season, the Commodores have compiled an impressive record of twenty-seven victories and six losses; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt has not shied away from a challenging schedule as its schedule ranks a remarkable seventh in the nation in terms of strength, enhancing the team's already impressive record; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores have prided themselves on teamwork, each player placing the needs of the team above individual honors and needs of her own; and

WHEREAS, this admirable quality has enabled the Commodores to persevere through difficult games and earn tremendous victories including the SEC Tournament Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Women's Basketball Team is composed of many gifted athletes, several of whom were named All-Southeastern Conference, including Chantelle Anderson, Zuzi Klimesova, and Ashley McElhiney; Chantelle Anderson was also named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding members of this championship team are Seniors, Zuzi Klimesova, Jillian Danker, and Candice Storey; Juniors, Chantelle Anderson and Ashley McElhiney; Sophomores, Jutta Korkko, Katie Smith, Venessa Ferragamo, Juli Colli, Hillary Hager, and Jenni Benningfield; Freshmen, Tia Battle, Abi Ramsey, Ashley Earley, and Jill Corbett; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores also excel in the realm of academics as Vanderbilt leads the conference in graduation rates and five players were named to the 2002 Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll; those outstanding student athletes are Jillian Danker, Zuzi Klimesova, Jackie Munch, Katie Smith and Candice Storey; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Women's Basketball Team is guided by an outstanding coaching staff led by Head Coach Jim Foster; and

WHEREAS, in his eleventh season at Vanderbilt, Coach Foster has won 253 games and two previous SEC Tournament Championships in 1993 and 1995; and

WHEREAS, Jim Foster has led Vanderbilt to nine previous NCAA Tournament berths; his teams have had tremendous success in the NCAA Tournament as Coach Foster has directed the Commodores to at least the Sweet 16 in seven of his previous nine trips, including a Final Four appearance in 1993; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected coach, Jim Foster has earned numerous coaching awards, including National Coach of the Year honors in 1985 and 1993; he is also an active member of the community, having earned the Affirmative Action Award for his outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, he possesses an unswerving commitment to the education of his players which is reflected in the academic performance of his teams; every player Coach Foster has recruited has earned a degree; and

WHEREAS, Coach Foster is supported by an excellent staff which includes Pete Gaudet, Assistant Coach; Kelley Meury, Assistant Coach; Chavonne Hammond, Assistant Coach; Erin O'Brien, Basketball Administrator; and Vicki Spina, Administrative Assistant; and

WHEREAS, throughout the tournament, the Commodores enjoyed the generous support of the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, the athletic excellence displayed by this phenomenal basketball program is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of both coach and player alike and deserves special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate the Vanderbilt University Women's Basketball Team on winning the 2002 Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship and we wish the Commodores well in the NCAA Tournament and all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.